

**Chapter 118-04 WAC
EMERGENCY WORKER PROGRAM**

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WAC 118-04-020 Purpose and intent. The purpose of this chapter is to adopt rules pertaining to the use, classes, scope, conditions of duty and training of emergency workers and compensation of emergency workers' claims.

The intent of these rules is to clearly delineate the responsibilities of authorized officials and emergency workers before, during, and after emergencies, disasters, and other specific missions.

WAC 118-04-040 Scope. This chapter is applicable for emergency activities as outlined in chapter [38.52](#) RCW for:

(1) Emergencies, disasters, and related incidents that are determined by appropriate state or local authorities to require the use of emergency workers and that are authorized by the issuance of an emergency management division mission number.

(2) Search and rescue missions, including urban search and rescue and evidence search missions, that are conducted under the authority of local law enforcement officers and that are authorized by issuance of an emergency management division mission number.

(3) Training events authorized by issuance of an emergency management division training event number.

WAC 118-04-060 Definitions. (1) "Authorized official" means the adjutant general of the Washington military department or designee, director of the state emergency management division or designee, the director or designee of a local emergency management agency, the chief law enforcement officer or designee of a political subdivision, or other such officials as identified in the search and rescue annex or emergency support function of a local comprehensive emergency management plan.

(2) "Authorized organization" means the Washington military department, emergency management division; local emergency management agencies, and law enforcement agencies of political subdivisions.

(3) "Claimant" means the person making a claim or their legal representative.

(4) "Emergency management division" means Washington military department, emergency management division.

(5) "Engineer" means any person registered under chapter [38.52](#) RCW as an emergency worker who is an architect registered under chapter [18.08](#) RCW and/or a professional engineer registered under chapter [18.43](#) RCW.

(6) "Evidence search" means an unscheduled, non-emergency training activity utilizing emergency worker skills to look for evidentiary material resulting from criminal activity.

(7) "Incident" means an occurrence or event, either human-caused or natural phenomena, that requires action by emergency services personnel to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property and/or the environment.

(8) "Local emergency management agency" means the emergency management or emergency services organization of a political subdivision of the state established in accordance with RCW [38.52.070](#).

(9) "Local director" means the director or designee of a local emergency management agency.

(10) "Mission" means a distinct assignment of personnel and equipment to achieve a set of tasks related to an incident, emergency, disaster, or search and rescue operation that occurs under the direction and control of a local authorized official.

(11) "Training event" means a planned, non-emergency activity for the development, maintenance, or upgrading of emergency worker skills.

(12) "Urban search and rescue (US&R)" means locating, extricating and providing for the immediate medical treatment of victims trapped in collapsed or damaged structures.

WAC 118-04-080 Registration. Registration is a prerequisite for eligibility of emergency workers for benefits and legal protection under chapter [38.52](#) RCW.

(1) Emergency workers shall register in their jurisdiction of residence or in the jurisdiction where their volunteer organization is headquartered by completing and filing an emergency worker registration card, Form EMD-024 or equivalent, with the local emergency management agency.

(a) The information provided during registration may be used by local authorized officials to conduct criminal history and driving record background checks.

(b) Failure to truthfully respond to statements set forth on the registration form may result in the denial of registration, revocation of registration as an emergency worker, or denial of compensation for claims or damage.

(c) Registration and subsequent issuance of an emergency worker identification card, Form EMD-025 or equivalent, shall be at the discretion of the local emergency management agency director. Denial of registration should only be made for cause.

(d) Each emergency worker shall be assigned to an emergency worker class as listed in WAC [118-04-100](#) in accordance with their skills, abilities, licenses, and qualifications.

(2) An employee of the state or of a political subdivision of the state who is required to perform emergency duties as a normal part of their job shall be considered as registered with the local emergency management agency in the jurisdiction in which they reside.

(a) When such individuals are outside the jurisdiction of their employment during a disaster or emergency, except when acting under the provisions of a mutual aid agreement, they should report to the on-scene authorized official and announce their capabilities and willingness to serve as a volunteer during the emergency or disaster. These individuals will be afforded the same protection as all other emergency workers.

(b) Such individuals, including volunteer fire fighters enrolled under chapter [41.24](#) RCW, shall not be eligible for compensation as emergency workers when, during an emergency or disaster, they are performing their normal duties in the geographic area they are normally assigned to work or in another geographic area under the provisions of a mutual aid agreement.

(3) Temporary registration.

(a) Temporary registration may be authorized:

(i) In those emergency situations requiring immediate or on-scene recruiting of volunteers to assist in time-critical or life-threatening situations.

(ii) In those training or exercise situations where certain duties can be performed by persons who have no permanent and specific emergency worker assignments and who are not registered emergency workers but whose participation may be essential or necessary for the conduct of the training or exercise activity such as persons serving as disaster victims during a medical exercise.

(b) Persons shall be temporarily registered during the period of service if they have filled out a temporary registration card which includes name, date of birth, and address, as well as information describing the emergency, training, or exercise function they participated in, and the date and time they were involved in these activities, are issued a temporary identification card, and have reported to and are under the control and supervision of an authorized official operating under the provisions of chapter [38.52](#) RCW.

(c) When the lack of available time or resources precludes the completion of separate temporary registration and identification cards for each person, entry of the person's name, assignment, date and times of work, total hours worked, and miles driven (if applicable) on an emergency worker daily activity report, Form EMD-078 or equivalent, shall suffice until such time as the required forms can be completed. In these cases, the emergency worker's date of birth shall be used in lieu of an emergency worker identification card number in the appropriate block on the Form EMD-078.

(d) Period of service:

(i) The period of service for persons temporarily registered shall commence no earlier than the date and time of issuance of an emergency management division mission, evidence search mission, or training event number.

(ii) The period of service for persons temporarily registered shall terminate no later than the termination date and time of the emergency management division mission, evidence search mission, or training event number.

(4) Any citizen commandeered for service in accordance with RCW [38.52.110](#) shall be entitled, during the period of this service, to all privileges, benefits and immunities provided by state law and state or federal regulations for registered emergency workers so long as that citizen remains under the direction and control of an authorized official. Such persons should complete temporary registration at the scene in order to facilitate the processing of any claim that may result from that service.

(5) Animals, such as dogs and horses used in search and rescue and other disaster response may be registered with the local emergency management agency.

(a) The purpose of this provision is to support those instances where a search dog or other animal must be transported on commercial aircraft. Registration as an emergency search and rescue animal will aid the airline in determining the proper method of transporting the animal.

(b) Registration of an animal also will facilitate the processing of claims for that animal should it become injured or killed during a training event or mission.

WAC 118-04-100 Classes of emergency workers. The following classes of emergency workers and the scope of duties of each class are hereby established.

(1) **Administration** includes, but is not limited to, technical, administrative, and clerical services and may involve recruiting, coordinating, and directing any emergency support activities.

(2) Aviation includes duties performed by pilots licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration, operating Federal Aviation Administration approved aircraft, in support of emergency management activities. No compensation will be provided under chapter [38.52](#) RCW for those activities of air search which are the statutory responsibility of the Washington state department of transportation, aviation division.

(3) **Communications** includes, but is not limited to, any emergency communications activities carried out in accordance with approved state or local emergency operations and communications plans.

(4) Engineering includes, but is not limited to, structural, lifeline, electrical, civil, or mechanical engineering activities, inspection services, structural stability evaluation, and other emergency engineering-related activities such as construction, closure, demolition, repair, and maintenance of highways, roads, streets, bridges, as well as all types of buildings and facilities.

(5) Fire service includes, but is not limited to, assisting fire fighting forces or agencies in both urban and rural areas, rescuing persons or protecting property, instructing residents regarding fire prevention, providing emergency information to individual citizens about methods of detecting fires and precautions to be observed to reduce fire hazards. This class does not include volunteer fire fighters enrolled under and while in the performance of duty under chapter [41.24](#) RCW.

(6) General includes, but is not limited to, duties which can be performed by persons without permanent specific emergency assignment. These emergency workers may include personnel who are not ordinarily a part of an emergency response organization and who do not have any specific training or qualifications, but whose participation is essential to a specific emergency operation such as conducting sandbagging operations during a flood. These persons may be necessary for training or exercise activities such as serving as disaster casualties. These personnel shall register as temporary emergency workers for the period of time they are participating in emergency activities.

(7) Hazardous materials includes, but is not limited to, hazards materials incident response duties, such as planning and coordination of response resources conducted in accordance with approved state or local emergency operations and hazardous materials plans.

(8) Law enforcement includes, but is not limited to, securing compliance with local, state, and federal laws, in a manner consistent with chapter [38.52](#) RCW, and assisting law enforcement officers with administrative and non-enforcement functions for the purpose of relieving commissioned personnel to carry out their enforcement duties.

(9) Mass care includes, but is not limited to, the provision of food, clothing, and lodging in mass care centers for persons whose homes have been destroyed or have been made temporarily uninhabitable by emergency or disaster, evacuation service for other than medical cases, registration and information, health and welfare inquiries, provision of temporary

housing, counseling performed by qualified counselors, and other necessary assistance to disaster victims. It includes all duties required by current shelter management guidelines and procedures published in approved state or local emergency operations and shelter plans.

(10) Medical includes, but is not limited to, medical and surgical field teams, triage, general emergency and mobile hospitals, nursing service, first aid and ambulance service, sanitation, mortuary and laboratory service, medical-related radiological monitoring, precautionary measures for biological or chemical incidents, identification of sick and injured, and other medical and health services. This class also includes critical incident stress debriefing teams.

(11) Public education includes, but is not limited to, duties involving public education and informational activities necessary to keep the public informed during an emergency or disaster as well as activities designed to prevent persons from becoming lost or injured during wilderness or other outdoor activities.

(12) Radiological includes, but is not limited to, radiological monitoring, gathering and evaluating radiological data, providing technical guidance concerning radiological decontamination operations, reporting, and planning duties that are in accordance with approved state or local emergency operations and radiological emergency plans.

(13) Search and rescue includes, but is not limited to, duties involving searching for, rescuing, or recovering by means of ground, marine, or air activity any person who becomes lost, injured, or is killed while outdoors or as a result of a natural, human-caused, or technological disaster. These duties include instances involving searches for downed aircraft when ground personnel are used. This class includes urban search and rescue activities.

(14) Supply includes, but is not limited to, procurement, warehousing, staging, sorting, and release of supplies, equipment, and materials required during a mission, emergency, or disaster.

(15) **Training** includes, but is not limited to, all activities, public and private, relating to the education process and proficiency skill building for the enhancement of emergency preparedness under the concept of comprehensive emergency management, including but not limited to, specific courses, workshops, seminars, exercises, volunteer training activities, which includes the administration, reporting, and maintaining of appropriate records.

(16) Transportation includes, but is not limited to, the planning, organizing, maintaining, operating, and coordinating available means of transportation for the movement of supplies, evacuees, personnel, service animals, livestock, and equipment.

(17) Underwater diving includes, but is not limited to, the duties of underwater diving on any mission or training event. Workers serving in this capacity shall be certified in accordance with recognized national standards and shall provide proof of this certification to the local authorized official prior to conducting the task assigned.

(18) Utilities includes, but is not limited to, assisting utility personnel in the repair of water, gas, electric, telephone, telegraph, steam, sewer, and other utility facilities.

WAC 118-04-120 Classes and qualifications of search and rescue emergency workers. There are three classes of search and rescue emergency workers: Novice, **support personnel**, and field personnel. The basic qualifications listed below define each of the three classes. Local requirements may include more extensive and detailed qualifications to meet local needs. Authorized officials also may require search and rescue emergency workers to demonstrate proficiency in the skills required to carry out their assignments.

Emergency workers who are not qualified for specific search and rescue duties shall not be assigned to such duties unless specifically directed by an authorized official and then only when under the direct supervision and control of personnel who are qualified for that specific assignment.

(1) The following are basic qualifications for novice search and rescue emergency workers without specific duties including those personnel in a training status. Novice personnel shall:

(a) Be physically and mentally fit for the position assigned.

(b) Possess sufficient knowledge of search and rescue skills and techniques to fulfill their emergency assignment.

(2) The following are basic qualifications for support search and rescue emergency workers. Support-qualified personnel shall:

(a) Be physically and mentally fit for the position assigned.

(b) Possess knowledge of the skills required of field search and rescue emergency workers but are not required to have the field tested experience nor the physical capabilities of field-qualified personnel.

(c) Possess knowledge in first aid for the control of bleeding, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, bone immobilization, protection from the elements, and protection from exposure to blood borne pathogens.

(d) Possess basic knowledge of helicopter operations. Successful completion of a helicopter operations basic course approved by the emergency management division satisfies this requirement.

(e) If duties require involvement in helicopter operations, possess demonstrated knowledge and proficiency in helicopter operations. Successful completion of a helicopter operations intermediate and, as applicable, advanced course, approved by the emergency management division satisfies this requirement.

(3) The following are basic qualifications for field search and rescue emergency workers. Field-qualified personnel shall:

(a) Be physically and mentally fit for the position assigned.

(b) Possess knowledge of and demonstrated proficiency in survival techniques and outdoor living.

(c) Possess knowledge in first aid for the control of bleeding, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, bone immobilization, protection from the elements, and protection from exposure to blood borne pathogens.

(d) Possess knowledge in wilderness navigation including map, compass, and other navigation methods as appropriate.

(e) Possess basic knowledge of helicopter operations. Successful completion of a helicopter operations basic course approved by the emergency management division will satisfy this requirement.

(f) Possess knowledge of search and rescue techniques.

(g) Possess knowledge of crime scene recognition, evidence recognition, human remains recognition and the provisions of RCW [68.50.010](#), [68.50.020](#), and [68.50.050](#).

(h) If duties require involvement in helicopter operations, possess demonstrated knowledge and proficiency in helicopter operations. Successful completion of a helicopter operations intermediate, and, as applicable, advanced course approved by the emergency management division, satisfies this requirement.

WAC 118-04-160 Establishment of state standards. When appropriate, and with input from local emergency management and law enforcement agencies as well as volunteer organizations, state standards may be established for classes of individual emergency workers and for search and rescue specialties. Upon establishment of a state standard, training programs within the state shall, at a minimum, comply with that standard.

WAC 118-04-180 Responsibilities of authorized officials registering and using emergency workers. (1) Authorized officials registering emergency workers have the responsibility to ensure those emergency workers meet basic qualifications as stated in these rules. Authorized officials organizing and using emergency workers are responsible for assembling the proper combination of emergency workers with the skills and abilities to accomplish the mission being undertaken. It is acknowledged that authorized officials must use judgment and experience in assessing the scene and the requirements for the mission. Authorized officials shall ensure each team has, among its members, the skills and expertise necessary to safely accomplish the mission.

(2) Local requirements may include more extensive and detailed criteria than are specified in this rule to meet local needs. Authorized officials also may require emergency workers to demonstrate proficiency in the skills required to carry out their assignments.

(3) Authorized officials shall ensure that all emergency workers are aware of their duty to comply with the personal responsibilities contained in WAC [118-04-200](#). This shall be accomplished at the time of registration and should be reemphasized to the emergency worker at periodic intervals.

(4) The state recognizes that many situations to which emergency workers are asked to respond are inherently hazardous. It is incumbent upon authorized officials utilizing emergency workers to ensure that the workers are not needlessly endangered in mission activities or training events.

(a) Authorized officials utilizing emergency workers for actual missions or during training events or evidence search activities shall not place emergency workers nor shall they allow emergency workers to be placed in unnecessarily hazardous situations.

(b) All prudent and reasonable safety procedures, techniques, equipment, and expertise shall be used to ensure the safety of emergency workers at all times while going to, preparing for, performing, recovering from, and returning from, missions or training events.

(5) In accordance with RCW [38.52.030](#)(3), [38.52.070](#)(1), and [38.52.400](#) (1), the incident command system shall be used for all multi-agency/multi-jurisdiction operations.

WAC 118-04-200 Personal responsibilities of emergency workers. (1) Emergency workers shall be responsible to certify to the authorized officials registering them and using their services that they are aware of and will comply with all applicable responsibilities and requirements set forth in these rules.

(a) Emergency workers have the responsibility to notify the on-scene authorized official if they have been using any medical prescription or other drug that has the potential to render them impaired, unfit, or unable to carry out their emergency assignment.

(b) Participation by emergency workers in any mission, training event, or other authorized activity while under the influence of or while using narcotics or any illegal controlled substance is prohibited.

(c) Participation by emergency workers in any mission, training event, or other authorized activity while under the influence of alcohol is prohibited.

(d) Emergency workers participating in any mission, training event, or other authorized activity shall possess a valid operator's license if they are assigned to operate vehicles, vessels, or aircraft during the mission unless specifically directed otherwise by an authorized official in accordance with RCW [38.52.180](#). All emergency workers driving vehicles to or from a mission must possess a valid driver's license and required insurance.

(e) Use of private vehicles, vessels, boats, or aircraft by emergency workers in any mission, training event, or other authorized activity without liability insurance required by chapter [46.29](#) RCW is prohibited unless specifically directed otherwise by an authorized official in accordance with RCW [38.52.180](#).

(f) Emergency workers shall adhere to all applicable traffic regulations during any mission, training event, or other authorized activity. This provision does not apply to individuals who have completed the emergency vehicle operator course or the emergency vehicle accident prevention course and who are duly authorized under state law to use special driving skills and equipment and who do so at the direction of an authorized official.

(2) Emergency workers have the responsibility to comply with all other requirements as determined by the authorized official using their services.

(3) When reporting to the scene, emergency workers have the responsibility to inform the on-scene authorized official whether they are mentally and physically fit for their assigned duties. Emergency workers reporting as not fit for currently assigned duties may request a less demanding assignment that is appropriate to their current capabilities.

(4) Emergency workers have the responsibility to check in with the appropriate on-scene official and to complete all required record keeping and reporting.

WAC 118-04-220 Emergency worker duty status. Emergency workers are considered to be on duty when they are performing their duties during a mission, evidence search mission, or training event authorized by the emergency management division and they are under the direction and control of an authorized official.

In no event shall a public agency, other than an authorized organization as defined in these rules, use the services, including for training, of an emergency worker unless the agency has received the prior approval of the emergency management division director. Emergency management division approval shall set forth the time and purpose of the activity and the proposed use of the emergency worker.